

(G)

1972

Birds seen Around
Ramnad 20 K.M
and
Kanchirankulam
Rameshvaram Island

1. Periakannai
2. Devipattanam
3. SETHUKARAI
4. Kavanoor
5. Uttarakosamangai
6. Periapattanam
7. Vaigai Tharavai
8. Thekku Tharavai
9. Sakkarai kottai Kaymai

Birds Seen From 1st January 1972
in and around 15 K.M. of Ramnagar.

1. Flamingo (about 400 Kaunoor Kannmai)
on 1st Jan 1971 and 7 Jan 71.
hunters told we can see them even
few K.M. N. of 15.

2. Crow

3. Jungle Crow

4. Myna

5. Sparrow

6. King Crow

7. Pariah Kite

8. Brahmany Kite

9. White headed Babbler

10. Cattle Egret-

11. Small Egret

12. Great Egret

13. Paddy Bird

14. White breasted
Kingfisher

15. Koel

16. Crested Cuckoo

17. Indian Robin

18. Painted Stork

19. Night heron

20. Partridge Grey

21. Indian Stilt

22. Green Shank

23. Common Plover

24. Golden Plover

25. Pintail Snipe

26. Grey Heron

27. Swallow

28. Golden Oriole

29. Pied Harrier

30. Pale Harrier

31. Merlin

32. Baya Weaver

33. Zebra

34. Peacock

35. L Ringed Plover

36. Roller

37. Palm Swift

38. Rock Pigeon

39. Dove

40. Ashy Swallow Shrike

41. Purple Sunbird

42. Pure Rumped S. Bird

43. Green Parakeet

44. Brahmany Myna

45. Jungle Babbler

46. Tree Pipit

47. Nightingale

48. Bay Backed Shrike

49. Blue Tailed Bee Eater

50. Common Bee Eater.

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13.1.1972 / Kavanoor

To day morning I went by cycle upto 5 K.M. The water in the Big Kannmai is decreasing. Shallow waters standing in the Panchai fields is still there.

As usual I met the Grey Partridges on the road. The shrike was also there. The nest of the Brahming Kite was almost completed. A Tern (probably ^{Whiskered} ~~A Caribbean Tern~~) ~~caught~~ carrying its prey fell on the prey immediately it fell down from its beak before it ~~could~~ drops a few inches. This happened thrice. Open billed Storks are numerous. Only few ^{Grey} Herons are seen. Black Stints were also seen. The ^{kestrel} ~~Red startin~~ was on its favorite telegraph post. Bush larks were in gay moods and they are uttering there song fly high up for a few metres. ^{An} Yellow Throated Sparrow ^{utter} ~~sang~~ its creaking song without minding my watching. White Throated Munias and Spotted Munia ~~were~~ also there. Few Brahming Mynas ^{too} ~~with~~ the

Company of Common Mynas were seen.

Little Ringed Plover, Common Plover

Black winged Stilt, Green Shank, Bar-

tailed Godwit were the few shore birds

seen there. Red wattled Lap wing was

seen first time in the Ramnad.

A noted feature is the arrival of some thousand small birds in a congregation flying from east to west over Peria Kanmai. They must be Plovers staying out of their night stay. Absence of Sunbirds, and other small birds are also noteworthy.

At least for few more weeks these spot should be watched and it is easy here to identify the birds than any other place.

13.1.1977 Thirupullani

In an effort to note large number of birds in a days birdwatch I went by bicycle about 10 K-m from Ramnad. But I am happy to note that Flamingo were all around Ramnad during winter. Near Bakkanai Kottai Kammai and also near Thirupullani I saw gatherings of Flamingos. But I am unable to near them. Spotted Billed Pelicans were also seen about a dozen on my way to Thirupullani. Heron, Open billed Strokes, an immature Brahminkite head brown Red instead of white most probably the male bird also accompanying the young. I was able to watch the Richard's Pipit at close quarters. B-Bellied Finch ² Lark and Bush Lark were also there. Little ringed Plovers, Sand Plovers, Green shanks, Marsh Sandpipers

were also seen. A Bay backed Shrike
was seen. Blue Tail Bee-Eater and
Green Bee Eaters were very numerous.
in number. Terns were also seen.

A pair of white scavenger vultures
were seen.

A large gathering of Heron
or Open billed storks about 200
to 500 in number were seen near
the flamingos.

I am unable to note any
small birds that is Sunbirds and
the like there also. They might have
gone in local migration.

16.1.1972

Kavaroor

By 3.30 I started by cycle and reached Kulathoor 10 K.M North of Ramnad. But the Tank at Kulathoor doesn't have any bird life. At Kavaroor Kanmai I was surprised by ^{the large} number of Cotton Teals and spotted Grey Duck. They may number around 10,000 thousand. Filmyingos numbering about 300 were also there. A small flock of Cormorants and other plovers were also there. On the way I met a pipit with lower mandible red in colour and deep markings which must be Richard's Pipit. Brown Shrike were also seen. The birds are not yet started to build nest at Kavaroor Tank. ~~Two~~ Some varieties of Sandpipers were also seen but they are not as numerous as seen on 13.1.1971 morning.

21.1.72 Madurai Road

In the morning I went by walk for about 3 k.m. in the Madurai Road. A Pair of Pipits was on the road side and they are very much at home even though I approached them. Warblers were flying here and there in the paddy fields. They were uttering their usual song. Three variety of warblers were seen.

21.1.72 Evening In the evening I went with U.R. to Shekka Tharavai by cycle on the way the cycle punctured. We were not able to see any thing except ~~for~~ L. Ringed Plovers and few water birds. The villagers told me that Flamingos and Pelicans ~~were~~ visiting there in the early mornings. Whiskered Terns, Whistling Teals, Pintail Garganey were seen in flight. A new bird brown in colour about the size of Bulbul + were seen. Herons and Paddy's Birds Egrets Painted Stork were also seen. Dromys ~~were~~ many in numbers on the road side. Blue tailed Bee Eaters ~~were~~ also seen. There with Green common Bee eaters.

23. 1. 72

08⁰⁰ 30025 K.M. South East of
Ramnad Railway Station. Rice fields-swamp -
Sandy fields with Paddy grown. 6.00 A.M.

25 Pelicans ^{were} ~~there~~ sitting in the shallow
canal with slow movements.

10 to 12 Storks were also there.

200 to 500 Little Ring Plovers.

One Eastern ~~Grey~~ Heron

One flamingo in flight

20 to 50 Richard Pipit

1 pied Harrier

10-20 Brown headed Gulls.

1 Grey or Brown Shrike

5 to 10 Bush Larks

Snipes, Plovers, yellow throated Sparrows
Cuckoo, Koel, Palm swifts, Blue Tailed Bee Eaters,
Drongos, Prach Kites, Brahmung Kites, Roller,
White Breasted Kingfisher, Paddy Bird, Small Egret,
are all seen. Tern..

26.1.79 9.00 to 10.30 A.M. Kavanoor Thattu

I went up to Kavanoor Thattu in the hot sun. I was able to record the Dabchic. The Sandpipers were there. But due to bright sun I am not able to identify them. Egrets and Herons are not as numerous as they were when the cultivation was started.

28.1.79 6.00 to 8.00 A.M. Devipattanam Road

I went in the Devipattanam Road up 7 KM by cycle. The Grey Patois are numerous. Few waders were also seen. In a single tree five birds (~~Grey~~ Black Cuckoo, Oriole, Babbler, Babbler were seen. No sign of new birds.

30.1.79 7.00 to 8.00 A.M. Travelers Bungalow

usual birds. Coppersmiths, Babbler, B and P. Kites. (Drongos singing beautifully) Black headed Cuckoo Shrikes are seen.

5 to 7.00 P.M. Sethukarai. Nothing was then great disappointment. Some Paddy birds and fifty Blue tailed Bee Eaters were there. The Boys here told sandpipers and Terns will be seen only in Avani.

3.2.1972 Shekka Tharavai (6.30-7.30)

By cycle I went up to Shekka Tharavai. I am able to locate Fleming's some hundreds in numbers. But I am able to reach only 500 Meters from them. A few crested finch larks, the usual solitary Heron other Phoebastria were there. The Pelicans were not there. Only one Pink Stork was there. Three geese in flight uttering 'Hon Hon' sound were also seen.

12.2-1972 Kavanoor 6.45 to 8.30

To day I went up to 7 K.m in the Kavanoor Road. There is no sign of Painted Storks and Pelicans Breeding in the Kavanoor Kammai. Tharavai and Sivagi are numerous. Not even a single Painted Stork which bred here last was seen. Water level is very low in the Peria Kammai and Kavanoor Kammai.

✓ Brahmany kite laid two eggs and is sitting in the nest which it built earlier. Warblers in the Paddy field are numerous. A Pale Harrier is seen flying very low.

13.2.72 7.00 A.M. 8.00 A.M. Peria Kanmai

I went upto peria kanmai by walk.
Large flocks of Teals and Pintails were there.
Green Shanks, Indian Blackwinged Stilts,
Little Ringed Plover, Grebe were also present
in small numbers. yet I am unable
to identify the water birds.

In the evening myself and Ray
went for a walk in the Kavanoor Road.
By 6.40 a large flock of Teal numbering
about two thousand flew from Peria Kan
mai towards East making enormous
noise which we mistake for a lorry
approaching from behind. Two or three
such flock flew towards East.

Indian Pipit and Richards Pipit
were present. Striated warblers are numerous
in the paddy fields.

In the evening a peculiar Eagle
was seen circling over paddy fields with long
tail and slim wings. underparts uniformly earth brown
size = Pariah kite -

17.2.72 T.00 A.M 8.00 A.M Peria Kanmai.

10-day I went by bus and got down near 5 K.M. mark and walk back on the land to the Kanmai. I spotted ~~two~~ huge flocks of white birds in the southern and western tips very far away. They might be the flamingos. Shits were numerous in number. Sandpipers and Snipes were also seen. Jack Snipe or Pintail Snipe?. GreenShanks and Marsh Sandpipers were seen. For a first time I recorded a Indian Purple Moor hen. A pair of Painted Storks with red patch near the gap were seen. I noticed a Spotted Munia building its nest in Palmaria Tree. A Sandpiper most probably Common Sandpiper uttering itee itee notes 10 notes in 5 seconds. Night heron was also seen. In an harvested paddy field a half a dozen Wagtails were seen. ~~Throat~~ neck breast and sides of ~~abdomen~~ yellow; above ashy grey tinged with yellow. size pied wagtail.

19.2.72: Periakammai

To-day for the first time I noticed two Painted Snipes under a kattukaruvai bush. Black winged Stilts are numerous. Two varieties of Shrikes (one Brown Shrike Southern Rufous. Rumped Shrike). Jack Snipe which I saw yesterday was still there to-day also. The ~~pink headed~~ ^{Painted} Storks are about six or seven. Pintails, Green Shanks Green Sandpipers Common Sandpipers Marsh Sandpipers, Wood Sandpipers Black Tailed Godwit, Little Ringed Plover were there.

The water level is decreasing daily and in fifteen days time I hope I can see numerous birds in the shallow waters which will attract many other species.

20.2.72: Devipattanam.

By 5.30 hrs I reached Devipattanam by 5.50. In the bathing ghat there was no sign of bird life. When I walked one or two K.M. north near Muthuragunathapuram. Here in the swamps I saw many many varieties of winter visitors.

Indian Reef Heron about 25 in number was there. Curlews, Sandpipers Shanks were also there. Little ringed plovers were numerous. When walked further north I came across a dozen Curlews and a single Great Black-headed Gull. and ^{may be Pin tail} some two hundered ducks all over Black in colour. A flock of Teals came over and floated in the sea.

Flycatchers and warblers are also in the dry zone near by.

A Kestrel (Probably Indian) was also there.

Paddy birds and Egrets were numerous.

24.2.72 Periakannai.

ஒன்று அல்லது இரண்டு இவைகள் 26
ஆகியன. அவைகள் அல்லது இவைகள் அல்லது
அல்லது இவைகள். அல்லது இவைகள்.

So day I came across gun
who shot two Teal and brought them
to shore. Even with the birds in hand
I am unable to identify them ~~clearly~~
definitely. They may be Teals - Common
Teals without any bright colours except
dark brown and ^{dull} white markings and
they were very small in size and no speculum
was present. I catch a paddy bird in the
Kattu Karuvai bush which probably was
wounded in the joints.

Sandpipers and Plovers were
less in number. The pair of Snipes were
there.

In the harvested rice field anyhow
there is some four variety of Sandpipers and
Plovers including a waytail.

Little Grebes near the church
are building their nest in the morning and
they are very active.

1-3-1972

Peria Kanmai

To day morning I went upto Peria-Kanmai and even before I reach the tank heard continuous roaring noise surprised me. When I got up the tank bund I saw about hundred Flimingos in the knee deep water feeding some 25 Metres ~~from~~ ^{Flimingos in} the bund and I had my first look of ⁱⁿ my life. They are making a lot of noise and their feathers on the back are rising up often due to wind or their action towards their mates I don't know. Some birds try to catch hold of the beaks of their mates. And their habit of feeding is wonderful. Some 120 Pleacans were also there. They are standing in closely knitted ~~packet~~ and when they suspect me they start flying ~~very low~~ only few feet above water one after other in a diagonal. The flimingo also flew for some distance. Stints are there in large numbers and they are flying here and there. I had an excellent view of a Night heron in full breeding plumage.

10.3.71 Peria Kannai + Kavoor. 6.30 to 10.40

So day I went in the usual route with Prof Abraham and Krishnamoorthy. A gunner disturbed the birds. In the Peria Kannai Fleming's were in huge congregations and only to-day for the season I saw a large number of Pelicans about 800 in number. The Fleming's were also some were near thousand in number.

Yesterday I went up to Kavoor kannai. The water there were almost dried up and Egrets, ~~and~~ Eastern herons, Paddy Birds, Bitterns and other birds were there in large numbers in the shallow waters. The reason for the birds not breeding in Kannai may be due to the fact that they will have some knowledge about the future condition of the water level in the Kannai.

10.3.71 4 to 7 P.M. Devipatnam Swamp.

By 3:30 P.M. we started by bus to Devipatnam. First it ~~looks~~ ^{seems} that our trip will end without much success. Via, Raghunathapuram we entered the swamp portion. The sea was fortunately at low tides and the water edge is about 200 meters further away ~~when~~ ^{than} compared to the ^{to my} last visit.

Some two hundred Sea Gulls (Brown headed, Black headed and Big Black headed ^{few} Gulls were seen. Eastern Reef heron one in Black Plumage ^{few} in white phase. Egrets were also seen. Some 20 curlews and Avocets were also there. but I am not in a position to identify other small sandpipers and plovers. Black tailed and Bar tailed Godwits we were able to identify. Stilt Stone Plovers and curlew Sandpipers were also there. I should pay a visit to that place. I should carry a note book with me. Green Shank Green Sandpipers were also seen. One should be patient to note each and every species.

11.3.1971 8.30 to 9.45 Kanchirankulam
4 km West of Mudukulathur.

4.30 Bus to Paramankudi min 5.30 Bus to Mudukulathur. 6.20 Bus to Mudukulathur. arrived here by 7.25. walked from bus stand to Kanchirankulam. 9.45 Bus to uttarakosamangai.

25 trees all Karavelams in the tank provides nesting and roosting places for the birds. (Mostly ~~Painted heads~~ Painted Storks and Pelicans.) Painted Storks about 2000, about 300 breeding chicks were there. bill ~~white~~ black almost white some birds sitting in the nest. some birds building here nest. Pelicans also had chicks of one month old about 1000 in number, 200 breeding. Some yet bringing in sticks - started breeding in November - still going - water condition alarming. But the birds will be there up to May when all the chicks will grow up. People giving protection for the past twenty five years. The trees in very bad condition. Many people visiting - you may handle the chicks. Black backs ibis, one Spoonbills with Egrets ~~also breed~~ were also seen

13.3.1972 6.00-7.45 A.M. Periakammal.

Near the vaikkal today I saw three Spoonbills which is a record for Ramanad. The Piontes of the wings were greyish black. One Black necked Ibis and one Painted stork and one Grey Heron and an open Billed Stork were also there. The Eastern ^{Large} Egrets were seen the bill yellow. - legs and feet toes all black. But not in breeding plumage. Some 5000 Teals flew over when one gunner sent out a shot. Flimingos and Pelicans were in large numbers as usual. Some Flimingos very far off are in red colour they may be Lesser Flamingo. Green shanks, spotted S.P., C. sand Pipers, Snipe, Stint, L. Ringed Plover were there. One HARRIER at a distance. Near 2. K.M in the Paddyfield two Cattle Egrets in breeding plumage were seen, others in ordinary condition were with them.

16.3.72 7.00 - 9.00 AM. Devipatnam Road.

I went up to 9 k.m. Meters in the Devipatnam Road. and went 1 k.m. towards Attankarai. There in a kammai some hundred Painted Storks 10 or 15 Eastern Herons 255 Spoon bill 3-5 White ibis and a single Eastern Reef heron were feeding in the shallow waters which will dry up in a week or so. Egrets, Paddy Birds, some varieties of Sandpipers were also there. While returning I saw four harriers Montagu or Pale flying over paddy fields Swallows were ~~in~~ hundreds were sitting on Kattu Karuvai and they glittering new plumage. I saw four mynahs fighting for nearly five minutes and crow interfering in their fight. Black winged Kite and Brahmany Kite also fight with each other. Grey Plovers were making lot of noise and they were numerous in number.

16.3.72 4.00 to 5.30 P.M. Madurai Road Periakamai

By Bicycle I went up to 5 K.M in the Madurai Road. Swallows were numerous and they are in moult and in gatherings of 100 to 200. I saw some 20 ^{such} groups, ~~4 such~~ Some Swallows have wire ⁱⁿ tails which are one to two and half inches in length.

The Black winged Stilts are numerous (some 500) near Southern Kalinga of Periakamai. I thought I left the place. In the middle of the water Pelicans, Flimingos and Teals were seen in large numbers.

A Caspian Tern in summer plumage and Whiskered Terns were seen. Caspian Tern makes a strong sound while flying. Many Brown headed Gull were ^{seen} flying and floating. Some attained summer plumage. One or two birds are still with head white. Sandpipers and Plovers were also there.

Again I saw a Harrier most probably Montagu's. Streaked Reed warbler and fly catcher were there.

17.3.72 4.30 to 6.30 P.m. Periakannai - near
dry lands.

To day I went by cycle up 5 k.m and
went 1 k.m west towards dry lands which
were under green grams cultivation. I saw
a Kestrel stand still in air 1 minute +
and a HARRIER. 10 wagtails most probably
~~white~~ grey with white edged tails and
yellow underparts. I was able to see a
Green shank in very close quarters which
had small white spots all over the body.
Two Painted partridges were also seen.
Small Pipits and Larks are numerous.
The Ashy Wren Warbler and Fan tailed
Streaked Warblers were also seen in large
numbers.

In the Periakannai flamingos
were not so numerous as found a week
back

20.3.72 5.30 to 6.30 Sakarabkhetai Kanmai
Western Shore

By walk I went up to 1/2 m South of Rail way line. Few Brown headed Gulls, Little Ringed Plovers, K. Plovers Three GreenShanks were seen near the water edge. But in the centre of the lake huge flock of Black headed Ibis about 500 in number were seen. By 6.15 they flew above the water in parties of 50 to 70 and went in various directions. White Necked Storks about 100 in number were also seen. They stood in lines facing South - that is wind. Few water birds Teals and Cormorants were also seen in distances. Flimings are also there. The white necked Storks which were not met before and the white necked Ibis and spoonbills were puzzling. I must investigate.

21.3.72 Peria Kanmai 7.00 to 8.00 A.M.

Water decreasing day by day.

200 to 300 flamingos some 200 feet
from ~~bank~~ bund

300 to 500 Pheasants for off.

Solitary ^{Grey} Herons and Egrets and
small plovers are seen. Black winged
plovers were there. But the Plovers and
sandpipers were less in number.

On the way back I saw half a
dozen Wag Tails - throat and abdomen
yellow - ~~breast~~ ^{with} grey band separating
yellow of throat and abdomen. Legs.

Tail long with white outer feathers. Back
striped.

22.3.72 Sakkarakkai Kanmai 6.00 P.M. to 7.00

- To day I went by cycle upto 4 km
on the Belthukarai Road. Only few birds
were seen in the Sakkarakkai Kanmai
Local bird catchers using nets went
far deep into the Kanmai and probably
the birds are afraid of them. Brown headed Gulls
were seen here and there.

23.3.72 Sakaraikkottak Kammai 5.45-7.15
A.M.

So day I started out by 5.30 and reached the bus stand to go to Selthukarai. But after learning that the bus will start only by 6.30 I walked up to 3 km and as the bus never turns up I cancelled the trip.

Only few birds Pintails (10), Herons (3), Gulls (15) were there. ~~Bats~~ in two kamvais there were young chicks of Brahmany Kites. One nest contains three chicks which resembles Pochiah Kite in colour and in ~~the~~ ~~other~~ one only two chicks were there. They had much white spots on the body. Two barred owlets were preparing nest in a old kamvel tree. I saw a bird with a thin stick in its mouth.

Scrublands, Drongos, Myiomas were numerous

The absence of Blue tails & bee eaters which were numerous in January is noticeable. Cattle, small and other egrets were numerous.

24.3.72 Periakammal 6.30 to 8.00 A.M.

By cycle went upto 5 K.M and
returned via the Eastern Bund of the Kammal.
Green Shank, Little Ringed Plover, Spotted
Sandpipers, Common Sandpipers were
common.

Six Black Necked Ibis were
seen in flight. *222*

50 Cormorants, 1800 Flemingoes
in three parties, 1500 Peacocks (in three
parties were seen *222*

10000 Teals stretched as a
great wall in a row of fives were
seen.

~~today~~ To days numbers
were greater for my life. I had
never seen such huge collections
any were before. Kavanoor sight may
equal this.

Harriers were also seen.
They are numerous during march.

25.3.72 Sakkarai Kottai Kammai 6.00 to 7.30
A.M.

Sunny day. Lot of mist in the morning.

I went about 1 to 2 km after crossing Railway line in the western shallow side of the Kammai. To my surprise I was able to find 60 to 100

WHITE STROKS standing as ~~separated~~ parties. Some 300 to 400 Black necked

White Ibis were also there. I saw 4 spoon bills in

flights. Pelicans Flimingos were also

there. Lots of stints Plivers are there in the grass swamps. This is the ideal time

for bird watching in Ramnad. Some Ducks Pintail and Teal were also seen.

People still engage in catching Birds.

25.3.72 Sethukarai 5.30 to 6.30

Early I cycled upto Sethukarai. In the backwaters a curlew and eight Turn Stones were there. I should visit in the mornings.

26.3.72 Periakannai 4.30 to 6.00

Near the mill Pelicans were sitting in the kannai on a thitta (pile) in large numbers. Pelicans were further north. The caspian tern was not there. White Whiskered Tern and Gull were seen.

The swallows are still ~~here~~ around here. Some have wire in tails about 6 c.m. in length.

A Black winged Kite and two Pale Harriers and two female Harriers one underpart almost white with less rufous sparklings another much darker but rump predominantly white anyhow Harriers are numerous during March around Rannad.

Only two Painted Storks were seen. White storks were not seen.

30.3.72 Periakammai 6.30 To 7.30

With Mr Abraham and Krishnamoorti
I went to Periakammai by walk via the
village and returned by Madurai Road.
Some 200 pelicans were there. Since the
Vaikai Dam was opened on 23.3.72
there is an inflow of water into the
kammai and the villagers say that water
will last for April and first two weeks of
May. Besides Pelicans one or two Gulls
and Whiskered Terns Cormorants were
there. Common Sandpiper and Marsh
Sandpiper were also seen there. A pair of
Green sandpipers were seen.

I saw a White breasted Kingfisher
feeding its small ones in the tree. The
Brahmanykite chicks were not come out.
Drongo probably abandoned its nest after
some time.

Some 15 Cotton Teals were
seen in the kammai. They were flying
uniformly and in glittering white
plumage. Some Heron were there. The
Golden Oriole is still around in abundance.

31.3.72 Devipattanam 5.00 to 7.00 P.M.

In the evening we went to Devipattanam and we were disappointed since the sea was in high tide. Only Marsh and common sandpipers in the salt-pans were seen. Gulls and some birds were flying.

1.4.72 Sakarai Kottai Kammal 6.00-7.00

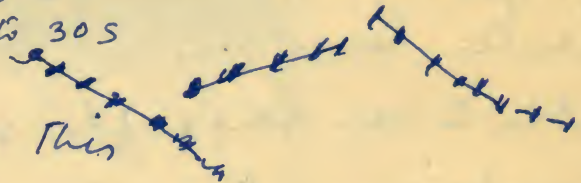
Today we went by walk in the Kilakkarai Road. Herons, stints, and Black necked Ibis were in large numbers. Ibis were some 500 in numbers. Stints also collected in large group consisting of some 50 in a group. The chicks of the Brahmany Kite came out of the nest and were sitting in the tree.

4.4.72 Sakarai Kottai Kammal. 6.00-8.00

Black Necked Ibis some 5000 in numbers were seen all over the Kammal. Other birds are not seen. Stints and Marsh sandpipers were seen. Gulls also were there.

5.4.72 To day I went by Thanthi Taxi
to Madurai. Near Paramakudi some 300
Cormorants flew from a tank and they
were flying in 20's to 30's

diagonals like this



In the Madurai University area I saw a
Red headed Merganser and some other birds.

7.4.72 Periakannai. 4.00 P.M.

The water level in the Periakannai
raised considerably and there were no
birds. Even the usual Gulls and Terns
were also not there. The ^{standing} ~~standing~~ ^{very} ~~very~~ ^{far} ~~far~~ off. The Swallows were still
around and they are in huge collection
flying vigorously around. The Brahmany
Kites were in large numbers.

|| Near the church In a Jamunna
tree two Indian Reef Heron were building
Nests with Little Egrets.

9.4.1972 Devipattanam 4.30 to 6.00.

With the principal I went to the Devipattanam swamp. Fortunately the water level was not high and I am able to see large flocks of stints and sandpipers. Few Egrets (large?) and other waders were there. ~~But~~ 10 snow white birds with prominent black bills most probably Crab Plovers were sitting on a thicket. Stints were very numerous. Wood or Marsh Sandpipers were the only species outside the shore.

10.4.1972 Sakkaraikottai 6.30 to 7.30 A.M

The water level were very low and the water is not flowing in the Mathakus. They are going to let in water to-day.

Pelicans, Open bills, Egrets, Gulls, Spoon bills, Teals, Stints are in large numbers. The total being some 10000 (ten thousand).

I saw two chicks in the Dronger nest.

11.4.72 Sakkarakottai Kanmai 6.00 to 6.30 A.m

The water is not yet released for this Kanmai. Some 200 Frelimingo's all in a line came from South-East and they are probably in two minds ~~whether~~ better to alight down or not. Finally they flew over my head without coming down ~~with~~ their beating of the wings making much noise towards Periakammai. Gulls flew to this Kanmai daily from Periakammai. Batches 50 to 60 came every morning and returning in the evening. Heron and White Ibis were also visiting.

12.4.72 Sakkarakottai Kanmai 5.45 to 6.15 P.M

Except Gulls other birds are very few in numbers. 15 Frelimingo came from North East. The velocity of the wind is very high - about - 40 K.mphr. It took nearly 15 minutes for the birds to cross over the Kanmai 2 K.M.

A Common Sandpiper and two Wood Sandpipers were also seen.

Stints are completely absent.

16.4.72 Sakkaraittaikammai 6.20 to 7.20

Water was not released as expected to this kammai and the water is drying up fastly. Except Gulls, Egrets and few open bills no other birds were seen in for off mud flat with little water.

One Wood Sandpiper and one Green Sandpiper were the only migrants seen still staying here

The two chicks in the Drongo's nest were flickering their wings. When I approached the nest one Drongo flew like a Sky lark very high (at least fifty metres) straight. It may be an attraction to draw my attention.

The Indian Reef Heron which build their nests a few days back were not seen after that. Perhaps they might have abandoned the nest.

Yesterday some 15 Fainted Storks flew circling over my house

18.4.72 Sakkaraitottai Kanmai. 6.00-6.30

The water is drying up fastly
and the number of birds are increasing.
So unexpectedly I saw some
5000 Brown headed and Black headed
Gulls ~~gathering~~ took off from there and
circling round ~~you~~ flying hither and thither
and at last they flew towards Peria
kanmai. 50 Spoon bills also
fly towards the same direction. 12
Painted Storks, 2 Pelicans, 2 Herons
fly towards the Kanmai.

19.4.72 Peria Kanmai - 6.30-7.30 A.m

Fleamingos - 300-500	and
Pintails(?) - 20-50	Pariah Kite &
Whiskered Tern 1	Brahming Kites.
Herons - 30-50	
Painted Stork 15-20	
Common Sandpiper 2	
Green Sandpiper - 1	

19.4.72 Peria Kannai 5-30 to 6-30

To-day I followed the Gulls numbering about 2000 from Sakkarattai Kannai by cycle and I found out that they roost in the Peria Kannai in the night in a "thitu". Two kinds of tern and a pair of Fishing Eagles and were also there. Some 200 ^(much dark above) herons and 100 Spoon bills and few Black necked Ibis were also seen. Flamingo were about 600 in number. Painted strokes, Pheasants and Cormorants and few Pintails were also seen. While returning I saw a Ghikra chasing a lizard and when compared to its size the bird I saw yesterday might be a Goshawk or Falcon. I saw One Blacknecked Ibis roosted in a tree near church ^{inside}.

23.4.72: Sakkarattai Kannai water dried up only Gulls and Egrets.